WORSBROUGH

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ending 31st December, 1902.

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ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

Chairman & Members of the Worsbrough Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on questions relating to public health in the Township of Worsbrough for the year ending December 31st, 1902, in compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Board.

The general mortality rate by which so many of us are given to judge as to the healthiness or otherwise of a population, was a relatively low one, 17·82 per 1,000 of the population.

The year ending December 31st, 1902, was much wetter and colder than usual; this no doubt accounts for the low mortality from Diarrhœa and comparative absence of Typhoid during the summer months.

Population.

It was estimated that the population of Worsbrough in 1901 was 10,335,.and as there has been twenty-five new houses built and inhabited, and none condemned during the year just ended, this will give, averaging four people per house, a population of 10,435 on which all statistics of this report are based.

Worsbrough being all in one registration district, no separate information is available with regard to births in its various portions, and the Census divisions were so arranged that no distinction can be made between Worsbro' Bridge and Worsbro' Dale. I have separated the district according to your polling districts, and estimate the population as follows:—Worsbro' Dale and Swaithe 2,710, Worsbro' Bridge and Ward Green 2,650, Birdwell and Worsbro' 2,220, Worsbro' Common and Highstone 1,560, Blacker Hill 1,295.

Births.

The number of children born in the Worsbrough district during the year 1902 was 433, viz:—214 males, 219 females, against 431 in 1901. The birth rate is therefore 41·49 per 1,000 as compared with 41·70 in 1901.

Deaths.

There were 181 deaths registered in the whole district, to which five have to be added, which occurred in the West Riding Asylum, Sheffield Royal Infirmary, and Kendray Hospital, amongst persons

removed from the district to those institutions, making 186 in all. This gives a death rate for the whole district of 17·82 for every 1,000 persons living, or 2·76 below the average for the preceding ten years, and 2.29 below the rate for 1901, when there were 204 deaths or at the rate of 19·73.

Taking the separate localities as just mentioned, 43 were in Worsbro' Dale and Swaithe, or at the rate of 15·86 per thousand, 59 in Worsbro' Bridge and Ward Green or at the rate of 22·26 per 1,000, 30 in Birdwell and Worsbro' or at the rate 13·51 per 1,000, 37 in Worsbro' Common and Highstone or at the rate of 23·78 per 1,000, and 12 in Blacker or at the rate of 9·26 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality.

During the year 1902 no less than 58 deaths occurred among children who had, at the time of their deaths, not reached one year of age. This gives an infant mortality rate of 133·94 per 1,000 births registered, lower than last year which was 199·53, and lower than the average of the last ten years which was 180·70. One cannot look at these figures without being impressed with the enormous mortality which takes place every year among young infants; more than half the deaths which took place in Worsbrough are of children under five years of age. The actual cause of this high death rate among children under one year of age is without doubt due to carelessness or ignorance in the rearing of infants; and there are to my mind only two remedies:—

(1.) Educating mothers how to rear their children, showing them how dangerous it is to

give young infants anything but the breast or milk diluted in proportion to the age of the child, and not solid food, or as they so frequently express it when the infant reaches six or seven months old, "it eats the same as we do," and

(2.) Some punitive measures for those who endanger the lives of young infants by carelessness in feeding and rearing It is certain that of the 58 infants under one year of age who died during 1902, the majority would have been spared had they been properly looked after and fed These children, too, would not have been weaklings as is so often stated.

Zymotic Diseases.

The deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases were 28 in number, one more than in 1901, giving a rate of 2 68 per thousand. Of these deaths 1 was from Scarlet Fever, 1 from Typhoid, 5 from Whooping Cough, 7 from Diarrhœa, 13 from Measles, 1 from Influenza and none from Small-Pox or Diphtheria.

Of the deaths from Zymotic Diseases 4 were in the Worsbro' Dale district, 9 in the Worsbro' Bridge district, 7 in the Birdwell district, 7 in the Worsbro' Common district, and 1 from Blacker.

During the year 67 cases of infectious diseases were notified under the Act, compared with 100 in 1901. All of them were visited and enquired into, and measures taken to prevent the spread of the

diseases. Of the whole number 15 were in Worsbro' Dale, 9 in Worsbro' Common, 11 in Worsbro' Bridge, 8 in Birdwell and Worsbro' and 24 in Blacker.

Scarlet Fever was reported in 47 cases, of which 11 were in Worsbro' Dale, 8 in Worsbro' Bridge, 4 on Worsbro' Common, 3 at Birdwell and Worsbro', and 21 at Blacker Hill.

Of the whole number of Scarlet Fever, 14 or 29 per cent. were removed to the Kendray Hospital, as compared with 20 per cent. in 1901 The disease has been prevalent the whole year at Blacker Hill, although there has never been any serious epidemic there and the fact of there being only one death in the whole district during the twelve months, points out clearly that the type of the disease must have been of a mild nature. In one family at Blacker Hill where there were three children suffering from the disease and eight in family all sleeping in one bedroom, I obtained a magistrate's order for their removal to the Fever Hospital.

Of Typhoid Fever there were 9 notifications, compared with 12 in 1901. One case was in Worsbro' Dale, 2 in Birdwell, 5 from Worsbro' Common, and 1 from Blacker. Of the above cases 2 were removed to the Hospital, one case terminating fatally. Only 1 case of Diphtheria was notified and that was at Worsbro' Bridge, and 1 case of Puerperal Fever, which was not notified till day of death, at Birdwell. There were 9 cases of Erysipelas reported, none of which proved fatal.

Of diseases not under the Notification Act, Measles, which was very prevalent in the early part of the year at Worsbro' Common and Birdwell, necessitating the closing of the schools in those districts for seven weeks, broke out in the autumn in Worsbro', Worsbro' Bridge and Worsbro' Dale, when the schools were closed for a month with the result that the disease is now stamped out. Measles caused 13 deaths throughout the district during the year. Whooping Cough caused 5 deaths during the year. Diarrhœa as I have already mentioned has not been so prevalent as usual, causing only 7 deaths and 2 from Enteritis which is another name for it.

The number of deaths from Tubucular diseases were 18, compared with 17 in 1901, and it is hoped that with the improved sanitary condition of the district, the careful supervision of the milk supplies and cow-sheds by the Sanitary Inspector, and by the aid of the proposed Sanatorium to be provided by the West Riding County Council, that the disease may eventually become extinct.

In addition to the action taken respecting cases of infectious diseases, systematic inspections have been made of the various parts of the district. Thirty-nine formal notices were served for the abatement of nuisances, most of which have been complied with. In many cases at Blacker and also in other parts of the district, the sink waste pipes are not carried to the gully-dish stone, with the result that the waste water runs into foundations of the houses. The ashpits and privies in

many cases are too deep and wet; 8 of these have been partly filled in and concreted during the past few months with very good results.

No new sewers have been constructed during the year, 23 waste water closets, 4 pedestal water closets and 7 privy middens have been erected in different parts of the district.

1,565 yards of eight inch cast-iron water main has been laid in the district in connection with a more direct supply of water, by which the district is now supplied. Also 160 yards of four-inch water main has been laid at Birdwell, in connection with new property recently built there.

Fifty-three cowsheds belonging to 28 owners are registered and were inspected, one of which has been condemned, and 8 slaughter houses have been frequently inspected.

A register of all dwellings, with remarks as to number of inhabitants and sanitary surroundings has been commenced, but it will be some time before this work can be completed.

The scavenging of the district has been carried out satisfactorily by your own staff during the year and if Captain Wentworth could be prevailed upon to let the Council have the barren piece of land on the west side of the Reservoir, which was let down by the Reservoir pit, as a site for depositing the refuse collected from the Worsbro' Bridge district, it would be an advantage to us, in that it

would remove the refuse from the close proximity to any house, besides converting in a few years what is at present a waste piece, into good arable land. By far the greater majority of houses in the district are supplied by water from your mains and the supply during the year has, I believe, been more regular than in the past.

Workshop Inspection

During the year the new "Factory and Workshop Act" came into operation, and since the appointment of the Sanitary Inspector and myself in October last, an attempt has been made, in the short time available to carry out the requirements of the Act. The Factory Inspector was written to for a list of the workshops in the Worsbro' District, and he replied that there were not any, apparently there are very few places in the district which come under the Act. A register has been provided and 4 Factories, viz. :—1 Joiner and Sawmills, 1 Timber Yard, 1 Corn Mill, and 1 Gas Works have been registered and inspected, and were found to be clean, well ventilated and with the necessary sanitary conveniences. Seven workshops or work-places have been registered and inspected, viz.:—1 Mason's and Builder's Yard, 1 Sweet Manufacturer, 2 Tripe Boilers, and 3 Dressmakers, all of these are carrying out the requirements of the Act, and in only one case where an untrapped drain, with opening into a Tripe Boiler's Shop was found, a notice was served on owner to abate the nuisance at once. There are no retail bake-houses in the district, and no list of outworkers has up to the present time been received by our Council.

Before concluding this report, I think it would be a wise policy if the council insisted that in future, where it is necessary to lay or re-lay drains in proximity to houses, that the joints should be made of cement, and be water-tight; I believe that nearly all the drains in this district are made with clay joints, and it is equally true to say that every one of these drains leaks more or less at every joint, when necessary I should suggest that the drain be laid on a bed of concrete and that the cement used for the joints should be of an approved quality, or even better still, that iron pipes be used which gives us the least chance of leakage, and it is questionable whether iron pipes for drainage work are not cheaper eventually than stoneware pipes, which are liable to breakage.

In conclusion I wish to say that the Sanitary Inspector has worked loyally and well, and has done everything I have required of him, willingly and with energy.

H. A. L. BANHAM,

Medical Officer of Health,

Worsbrough.

February 9th, 1903.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of whole District during 1902 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths under One Year of Age.		Total Deaths at all Ages.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-Residents in District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond District.	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.	
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number	Rate.*				Number	Rate.*
1892	9,950	464	46·63	70	150·80	185	18·59	...	...	9	194	19·59
1893	9,990	477	47·74	79	165·6	202	20·22	...	...	5	207	20·72
1894	10,030	404	40·27	55	136·13	144	14·35	...	...	8	152	15·15
1895	10,080	440	43·65	108	250·00	260	25·79	...	...	6	266	26·38
1896	10,120	448	44·26	68	154·01	184	18·18	...	...	13	197	19·46
1897	10,170	424	41·69	84	198·11	219	21·53	...	..	7	226	22·22
1898	10,210	410	40·15	79	192·68	190	18·60	...	...	8	198	19·39
1899	10,260	423	41·22	83	196·21	211	20·56	...	...	14	225	21·92
1900	10,300	423	41·06	73	172·34	171	16·60	...	...	10	181	17·57
1901	10,335	431	41·70	86	199·53	194	18·77	...	...	10	204	19·73
Averages for yrs. 1892-1901	10,144·5	434·4	42·82	78·50	180·70	196	19·32			9	205	20·20
1902	10,435	433	41·49	58	133 94	181	17·34			5	186	17·82

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District (exclusive of area covered by water), 3,378 acres.

Total population at all ages .. .. 10,335 } At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses .. .. 2,207 }
Average Number of persons per house .. 5.009 }

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—
Sheffield Royal Infirmary. Kendray Fever Hospital, Ardsley. West Riding Asylum.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1902.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.						Total Cases Notified in each Locality.					No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.				
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.					Worsbro' Dale and Sw'ith Pop: 2710	Worsbro' Br'dge and Ward Green Pop: 2650	Bird-well and Worsbro.' Pop: 2220	Worsbro' Com. and High-stone. Pop: 1560	Black-er Hill. Pop: 1295	Worsbro' Dale and Sw'ith	Worsbro' Br'dge and Ward Green	Bird well and Worsbro.'	Worsbro' Com. and High-stone.	Black-Hill.
		1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up-wards										
Small-pox																
Cholera																
Diphtheria	1				1			1								
Membranous Croup																
Erysipelas	9			2	4	3	3	2	2		2					
Scarlet fever ...	47	18	24	5			11	8	3	4	21	2	3	2	2	5
Typhus fever ...																
Enteric fever ...	9		2	2	5		1		2	5	1				3	
Relapsing fever ...																
Continued fever ...																
Puerperal fever ...	1				1				1							
Plague																
Totals	67	18	26	9	11	3	15	11	8	9	24	2	3	2	5	5

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Kendray Hospital, Ardsley, nr. Barnsley.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

Cause of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in or belonging to Localities, at all ages.				
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	W. Dale and Swaithe.	W. Bridge & Ward Green	W. Com. & Highstone.	Birdwell and Worsbro'.	Blacker Hill.
Measles	13	4	9					1	4	4	3	1
Scarlet Fever ..	1			1						1		
Whooping Cough	5	2	3					1	3		1	
Croup	3		3						2	1		
Enteric Fever .	1					1				1		
Epidemic Influenza	1					1						1
Diarrhœa	7	4	3					1	1		5	
Enteritis	2	1				1		1	1			
Puerperal Fever	1					1					1	
Other septic diseases	2					2		1			1	
Phthisis	10	1	1		2	6		1	2	3	3	1
Other tubercular diseases	8	3	4			1		2	6			
Cancer, malignant disease ..	4					3	1	1	2	1		
Bronchitis	29	14	5	1		4	5	10	3	8	5	3
Pneumonia ..	9	3	1	2	1	2		2	3	4		
Pleurisy	1			1				1				
Other diseases of respiratory organs	12	6	6					4	6		2	
Venereal diseases	1	1								1		
Premature birth	5	5							1	2	2	
Diseases and accidents of parturition	3					3				1	1	1
Heart diseases ..	12		1		1	8	2	5	5	1		1
Accidents	9	3		1		5		3	2	2	2	
Nervous system	28	5	6	3	1	7	6	5	12	4	3	4
Digestive ,,	4		1	1	1	1		1	2	1		
Urinary ,,	3					1	2	1	1		1	
Old age	5						5	2		1	2	
Congenital Debility	4	4						1	1	2		
Imperfectly described. All other causes ..	3	2				1			2	1		
All causes ..	186	58	43	10	6	48	21	44	59	39	32	12